

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated August 25, 2004, claims 1-45 were pending. Claims 2, 5, 8, 10-21 and 38-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and U.S.C. § 102(e). Portions of the drawings and specification were objected. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9, and 22-30 were allowed. Claims 31-38 and 42-45 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms.

In this response, claims 31, 35, and 42 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 5, 8, 10, 15, 20, 33-34, 37-38, and 44-45 have been amended. Figure 9 has been amended to correct typographic errors. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, independent claims 10, 15, and 20 have been amended to include an allowable subject matter of the objected claims 31, 35, and 42 respectively. Thus, all independent claims are allowable. Given that the rest of the claims depend from one of the independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable.

Portions of the specification that were amended in a previous amendment were objected as a new matter. It is respectfully submitted that the amended portions of the specification were supported at least by the original claims, such as, for example, original claims 2-3. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections have been overcome.

Claims 10-21 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Joshi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,668,090 (“Joshi”). In view of the foregoing amendments, it is

respectfully submitted that the rejections have been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

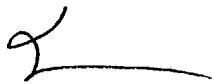
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: 4-25-04

  
Michael J. Mallie  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 36,591

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026  
(408) 720-8300